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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gebhardt

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: July 7, 1975

1 - Mr. Gebhardt
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Lawn
1 - Mr. Moore

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
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This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968. James Earl Ray had pleaded guilty in State Court, Tennessee, and is presently serving a 99-year sentence.

By memorandum dated July 2, 1975, John C. Keeney, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice, requested that a representative of this Bureau appear at a meeting at the Department where Dick Gregory intended to furnish some information he has received pertaining to the assassination of Martin Luther King.

Pursuant to the instructions of Deputy Associate Director Thomas J. Jenkins to the General Investigative Division, Supervisors [redacted] and [redacted] attended this meeting at the Department on Thursday, July 3, 1975. Also in attendance was Departmental Attorney Steven Horn, Dick Gregory and Ralph Schoenman.

Gregory advised that he desired to defer to Mr. Schoenman, his associate, who had received new information from Robert Byron Watson of Atlanta, Georgia, pertaining to the assassination of Dr. King.

The information related by Schoenman was the same information furnished to this Bureau in 1971 by Watson. During a subsequent interview, Watson had revealed that the information furnished by him was fabricated. The information furnished by Watson and the results of the interview were furnished to the Civil Rights Division in April, 1971.

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Schoenman and Gregory were advised that this Bureau had received this information previously and that the information had also been furnished to the Civil Rights Division.

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Schoenman indicated that he planned to prepare a report of his findings and would send copies to the Civil Rights Division and to the FBI. The meeting was then terminated.

ACTION: None. For information.